during pregnancy, had children weighing 3319 grams; and where the mother had no hard work and abundant rest the weight of the child rose to 3318 grams, if the rest taken was less than the average. Goldfeld publishes tables of the different trades, with the average weight of the infant born of mothers working in these trades. His results agree with those already quoted, that difficult work and lack of rest very much diminish the weight and size of the fetus. He also gives a tabulated statement of the increase in weight in the second, as compared with the first child. So far as the age of the mother is concerned, the largest children were born of mothers between twenty and thirty years of age, and over forty years. So far as the occupation of the mother is concerned, women working during the day seemed to give birth to large children, although the weight of the fetus in these cases was sometimes exceeded by those of more sedentary occupation.

Suprarenal Insufficiency Complicating Pregnancy.—Zuloaga (*Arch. men. d'Obs.*, May, 1914) finds that this condition sometimes produces considerable disturbance during pregnancy, labor and the puerperal state. It is often present before pregnancy and is made very serious by the advent of gestation. Where the toxemia of pregnancy results from chorionic villi, this in turn may affect the suprarenal capsules, and in some cases it seems probable that pernicious nausea is caused by these lesions. Sudden death complicating pregnancy, labor, and the puerperal state, may be sometimes referred to this condition. A diagnosis of suprarenal insufficiency becomes, in view of these facts, important. Persistent vomiting, altered arterial tension. and general evidences of toxemia indicate this condition. The use of suprarenal extract, either from the fresh gland or dry material, or the administration of adrenalin is indicated. Pregnancy should not be terminated for toxemia until this treatment has first been tried. Where there is distinct tendency to this condition the occurrence of pregnancy should be avoided.

The Importance of the Retention of the Membranes.—Guldal (*Arch. men. d'Obs.*, May, 1914) gives the results of his observations in Meyer's Clinic in Copenhagen. He finds that the management of natural delivery plays an important part in the retention of the membranes, that this complication arises in direct proportion with active interference during labor. Abnormalities of the placenta, and especially marginal placenta, predisposes to this occurrence. It cannot be demonstrated that the retention of the membranes has any important influence in causing hemorrhage. . Puerperal morbidity is somewhat increased by this accident, but the removal of the membranes artificially does not seem to lessen the morbidity. Membranes that are practically adherent are usually discharged spontaneously from the fourth to the ninth day. It is quite possible that some of the chronic forms of endometritic have their origin in the retention of fetal membranes.

An Epidemic of Contagious Pemphigus in the Newborn.—Reinhardt (*Ztschrft. f. Geb. u. Gyn.*, Band 76, Heft 1, 1914) reports an epidemic of contagious pemphigus in infants under the care of the

Dresden Clinic. The first case appeared on the seventh day after the birth of the child, with small blebs in the hands and feet, after the stump of umbilical cord had separated. It seems probable that the mother of this child brought the contagion into the Hospital, as in the portion of the city from which she came there had been a widespread epidemic. The mother would not leave the child in the Hospital, but had no pemphigus herself. The second case occurred in an infant born eight days after the first, the blebs appearing first in the face and about the eyes. Mother and child left the Clinic and the mother bathed the child at her home, which resulted in spreading the infection and producing a universal eruption. Although the child was very ill it recovered, and the mother showed no signs of the infection. A short time after the third case occurred. The mother of the child died of puerperal sepsis. The child recovered from its pemphigus and was discharged from the Clinic in eight days. Although every effort had been made to end the infection, within a short time five other children were attacked, and later on additional. One child died, the infection penetrating the superficial layers of the skin and causing deep phelgmon. After it was supposed that the first epidemic had ceased, a second group of four children were attacked, three of whom were born in the Clinic. A period of four weeks then passed during which no new case developed, when another appeared, and two of the later cases died.

Two months then elapsed without pemphigus, while the Clinic had undergone the most vigorous disinfection, then suddenly three children were attacked, two severely, both dying with symptoms of general septic infection. Salvarsan was tried in these cases without evident result. Eight days after the last epidemic mentioned, a group of three cases developed, which were severe. One child died about six months after the first beginning of the epidemic. At the time of writing four months had elapsed, during which no case had developed. In diagnosis the question of syphilis is always an interesting one, but at present this can be settled by microscopic examination for Spirochæta pallida. As regards the germs causing the condition, staphylococci in all three varieties, streptococci, diplococci, gonococci and the pyocyaneus have all been isolated. Experimentally the disease has been inoculated from the human subject in monkeys, the infective bacteria being found in the chorium. So far as treatment is concerned, the persistent use of antisepsis which will not poison the infant, such as boracic acid by powder or bath, is indicated.

The Mechanism of the Passage of Carbonic Oxide from Mother to the Fetus, and the Part Played by the Placenta.—NICLOUX (*Archiv. mensuelles l'Obstétrique*, January, 1913), has studied the mechanism of the transmission of carbonic oxide from mother to child, and the part played by the placenta. His experiments indicate that the blood plasma alone is the vehicle of conveyance, and that the phenomenon of respiration is essentially conducted by both the placenta and the individual tissues. Where the fetus is poisoned by carbonic oxide the result follows the action of this substance upon the maternal blood, while in the respiratory phenomenon oxygen is the essential agent. Before the maternal and fetal circulations are absolutely independent, soluble substances pass from mother to child through the epithelia